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May 31, 1989

SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED AT UM IN MEMORY OF ALAN MERRIAM

MISSOULA --

The University of Montana Foundation announces the establishment of a \$10,000 endowed scholarship in memory of Alan P. Merriam, a renowned ethnomusicologist.

Merriam was an anthropology professor at Indiana University in Bloomington. His wife, Valerie, of Gosport, Ind., set up the fund as a tribute to her husband who died in the 1980 crash of a Polish airliner near Warsaw, Poland. He was traveling to Poland to teach a course on ethnomusicology when he died. He was 56.

Merriam was born and reared in Missoula. He earned his bachelor's degree from UM in 1947. He holds both a master's degree in music and a doctorate in anthropology from Northwestern University in Chicago. He was a former summer resident at Lake McDonald.

He is well known for his introduction of anthropology to ethnomusicology. His approach was that one could learn much about a culture from its music. Music historian Gilbert Chase said Merriam's book, "The Anthropology of Music," is "one of the 15 most important books on music ever written." Besides being a distinguished anthropologist and Africanist, he was a jazz enthusiast and scholar.

Some of Merriam's research focused on the music of the Flathead Indians of Western Montana. The scholarship will go to

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Native Americans based on long-range goals, an interest in Native American Studies and academic potential.

The first recipient of the Alan P. Merriam Scholarship is Roger Renville, a Sioux from Harlem. He is a freshman in journalism and intends to earn a master's degree in political science.

"I am aware of the continuing difficulties in the Native American communities as well as those of the world community," Renville said. "I want to take part in the development of solutions."

Contributions to the Alan P. Merriam Scholarship fund may be sent to the UM Foundation, P.O. Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807.

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Local, daily, hometowns, tribal publications and Society for
Ethnomusicology Newsletter
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